

been included in the following section. An overhead could be made of this diagram to show students an example of a correctly drawn food web diagram.

SAMPLE STUDENT WORK

VERY NICE 110

- A. NAME OF SCIENTIST: Alicia
- B. TITLE OF SCIENTIST: PhD in Ecology from Kealing University, works in magnet science and genetic fields
- C. PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC NAME OF ORGANISM: *Acuta rodentia*
- D. CLASSIFICATION OF YOUR ORGANISM: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Mammalus, Class Leadista, Order Herbitera, Family Trecentae, Genus Acuta, Species Rodentia
- E. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION/CHARACTERISTICS AND BEHAVIORS OF ORGANISM:
- 1) Small body about half a foot tall
 - 2) Small eyes and nose, has relatively good eyesight but relies on ears
 - 3) Has four tentacle-like ears colored a light green to camouflage with the grass
 - 4) Has sharp spines on its back used to scrape bark off of trees
 - 5) Body colored a light tan to camouflage with the ground
 - 6) Has short feet that are very efficient at digging, lives in burrows
 - 7) Curls up into a ball and fold ears over its body so that its spines protect its body when spotted by a predator
 - 8) Hibernates for a long period of time over the winter
 - 9) Lives in groups of six or seven, not very defensive of its territory
 - 10) Has one to two babies at a time, about two inches tall when born
 - 11) Takes care of young until age two when they are fully mature
 - 12) Has an average life span of about ten years
 - 13) Uses small pebbles outside of its burrow to collect dew in the morning
 - 14) Is an herbivore – eats mainly soft tree bark, will eat wild grass when tree bark is scarce
 - 15) Is a marsupial – females have a small pouch on its stomach it uses to carry babies
- F. ADAPTATIONS:
- a) Has four tentacle-like ears colored a light green to camouflage with the grass
This adaptation helps *Acuta rodentia* survive, because not only does it rely on its sense of hearing, the ears help it camouflage into the grass and avoid predators
 - b) Has sharp spines on its back to scrape bark off of trees
The spines on its back are very important, because without the bark to eat, *Acuta rodentia* would lose an important food source and would not have enough nutrients it needs to survive.
 - c) Is a marsupial – females have a small pouch on its stomach it uses to carry babies
This pouch is important to the female, because without it, the female would not be able to go anywhere with her young.
 - d) Curls up into a ball and fold ears over its body so that its spines protect its body when spotted by a predator
This is an important defensive tactic, because without it, this animal doesn't have another weapon against predators.